

BRITISH COLUMBIA INDUSTRY STATS Impacts of COVID-19

Oct. 5, 2020

STATE OF OPERATIONS

An estimated 10% of British Columbia's foodservice establishments have already permanently closed due to the impacts of COVID-19 and nearly half are still losing money.

Based on a survey conducted between Sept. 15 and Sept. 24:

- The majority of British Columbia's restaurants are still not profitable:
 45% said they are operating at a loss.
 20% said they are just breaking even.
- More than half of restaurants still operating at a loss expect to take at least a year to return to profitability:
 - o 6% said 6 months or less.
 - o 20% said 7 months to a year.
 - o 46% said between a year and 18 months.
 - o 29% said more than 18 months.

JOB LOSSES

- Restaurants and other foodservice businesses are the third-largest source of private sector jobs in British Columbia. Collectively, the industry typically employs 193,000 people. At least this was the case before COVID-19 resulted in more than 112,000 foodservice workers losing their jobs or having their hours cut down to zero by April.
- While foodservice employment in British Columbia increased by more than 97,000 jobs between May and August, the province's hospitality sector remains at least 14,000 jobs short of where it was in February 2020.

SALES LOSSES

- Due to the impacts of COVID-19, total foodservice sales in Canada will not grow to a record \$97 billion in 2020 or pass the \$100-billion mark in 2021 as previously forecasted.
- In the worst-case scenario, Canada's total foodservice sales could drop by nearly half in 2020, representing \$44.8 billion in lost sales compared to 2019, and as much as **\$7.5 billion** in lost sales for British Columbia's restaurant industry alone.